

A NEW GENUS OF CHALCIDOID HYMENOPTERA
(CALLIMOMIDÆ)

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Mr. Charles H. Hicks has for many months been studying the insects breeding in dead herbaceous stems. He finds that these will emerge in great numbers during the winter, in the warmth of the laboratory, and as a result he has obtained a wonderful series of bees and other insects, some new, others permitting the association of sexes, and many connecting parasites with hosts. On Feb. 3, 1926, he bred the insect described below from a stem collected at Boulder, Colorado. It has since been determined to be parasitic on a bee of the genus *Stelis*.

Megormyrus new genus

Female. Elongate, parallel-sided, highly metallic, minutely sculptured, the head and thorax with only very short and thin pale hair; head transverse, broader than long, with large prominent eyes, which are finely, not densely, hairy; front minutely cancellate, transversely striatulate above the antennæ; ocelli large, in a triangle, lateral ocelli about as far from eyes as diameter of an ocellus; cheeks flattened, not at all bulging behind eyes; last joint of maxillary palpi very long; clypeus with some relatively large punctures near margin; mandibles broad, not metallic, the outer surface striate and with a few oval punctures; antennæ placed low down on face, 12-jointed, no ring-joint discernible; flagellum thickly minutely hairy, middle joints longer than broad; terminal cancellate; no parapsidal grooves; hind coxæ extremely large, with a minute reticulate sculpture; femora robust, but not greatly swollen; curved spur of anterior tibia much shorter than basitarsus; tarsi five-jointed, ordinary; wings well developed, hyaline, with a large circular dusky cloud below end of submarginal vein, and a couple of dusky streaks on lower margin at about the same distance from base; marginal

vein about half as long as submarginal; postmarginal about or almost as long as marginal; stigmal moderate, clavate, with an upper lateral pointed projection; abdomen broad, with five tergites visible before the pointed hairy apex; fourth nearly as long as first three together, second much shorter than first or third; sculpture minutely cancellate or reticulate, producing a dullish surface, but first segment highly polished; hind margins of second and third segments shining; no rows of strong punctures; no trace of a dorsal carina; venter convex, polished, with deep median groove for ovipositor, which is only very slightly exerted at apex.

Megormyrus amabilis n. sp.

Female. Length about 7 mm.; head in front obscure dull green, cheeks shining green; scape chestnut red, flagellum black, suffused with red about middle; thorax dorsally dull obscure greenish, but pronotum somewhat shining posteriorly, post-scutellum brilliant purple, metathorax green with rosy patches, sides more brassy; hind coxæ shining green, with a brassy luster; legs (except the green coxæ) bright chestnut red; first abdominal segment highly polished, shining beautiful coppery red, second and third obscurely green, fourth very dark blue, fifth dark blue; venter shining. Stigmal vein 255 microns long; postmarginal about 800, from its end to wing tip about 640. Compared with *Ormyrodes* Brues, it differs by not being coarsely punctured, nor the abdomen excessively elongate; also by the lack of a dorsal keel on abdomen and shorter marginal vein. From *Monobæus* Förster it differs by the sculpture of the abdomen, hairy eyes, and general appearance. In Ashmead's table it appears to fall closest to *Monobæus*, but it is certainly not congeneric with *M. hegei* Girault, described from Michigan. I have not access to the descriptions of Förster's two species, but as Mayr referred them to *Ormyrus*, they are evidently quite different from the insect now described. In the Colorado fauna, this actually seems closest to the remarkable *Ormyrodes petrefactus* Brues, fossil in the Miocene of Florissant. May we suppose that formerly this group of insects was more abundant, surviving today

in a few isolated and peculiar types, and the widespread and more prolific genus *Ormyrus*? *Ormyrus*, mainly parasitic in cynipid galls¹ has about 45 species; *Monobæus* has three, *Tribæus* one. *Ormyrodes* was based on a species from South Africa; the very similar fossil *O. petrefactus*, from Florissant, is probably not truly congeneric.

¹Not invariably, *O. sculptilis* Crosby being from *Asphondylia* and *Agromyza*.